

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 14064 302027Z

70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /227 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5993

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14064

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

PFOR, ENRG, OAU, XF

SUBJECT: LESOTHO HIGH COMMISSIONER'S VIEWS ON SOUTHERN
AFRICA OIL EMBARGO

REF: ADDIS ABABA 13474 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF HAD OCCASION AT RECEPTION NOVEMBER 29 TO

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PAGE 02 LONDON 14064 302027Z

DISCUSS POSSIBLE OIL EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH

LESOTHO HICOMER MABATHOANA, FORMER PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO HAS JUST RECENTLY TAKEN UP HIS POST IN LONDON. MABATHOANA EXPRESSED DEEP DISMAY OVER THE OAU RESOLUTION SAYING THAT AN EMBARGO WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR HIS COUNTRY. HE WAS SURE THAT OTHER MAJORITY RULED NATIONS IN THE AREA WOULD BE BADLY HURT ALSO, ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT TO THE SAME DEGREE. HIS PARTICULAR CONCERN WAS FOR THE FATE OF LESOTHO'S NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME WHICH IS JUST ABOUT TO BE LAUNCHED. WITH OIL SUPPLIES SHARPLY REDUCED, THE PROGRAM WILL COME TO A DEAD HALT, HE SAID.

2. WHILE NOT CRITICAL OF ANY PARTICULAR OAU STATE, MABATHOANA DID NOTE POINTEDLY THAT IT WAS TOO BAD THAT ZAMBIA, WHILE STRONG ON RHETORIC, COULD DO NOTHING PRACTICAL TO HELP BLACKS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. MABATHOANA DEPLORED FACT THAT CASE FOR HIS PEOPLE HAD NOT BEEN MADE VERY EFFECTIVELY AT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. HE SAID IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO CONVENE MEETING OF HIGH COMMISSIONERS OF MALAWI AND BLS STATES IN LONDON TO CONCERT THEIR EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE OTHER OAU REPRESENTATIVES IN LONDON AS WELL AS OIL SUPPLIERS NOT TO TAKE ACTIONS WHICH WOULD DO IRREPARABLE HARM TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN BLACKS.

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Message Attributes

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